

Claims

1 A method for preventing an unauthorized access to information equipment comprising the steps of:

obtaining current utilization information of the information equipment;

informing a user of the current utilization information; and

writing utilization information to be obtained next time or information necessary for obtaining utilization information next time into storage means,

in at least any one of when the information equipment is powered on, when the information equipment resumes from a power saving mode, and when a specific function of the information equipment is selected.

2 The method for preventing an unauthorized access to information equipment according to Claim 1, wherein the current utilization information includes at least one of the number of power-on times of the information equipment, the number of resumes of the information equipment from a power saving mode, the number of selections of a specific function of the information equipment, the number of activation times of the information equipment comprising including the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode, the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the information equipment, the last date and time of shifting the information equipment to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the information equipment from the power saving mode, the last date and time when a specific function of the information equipment was selected or the last date and time

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when use of the specific function of the information equipment was completed, and a total use time of the information equipment.

- 2
- 3 The method for preventing an unauthorized access to information equipment according to Claim 1, wherein the current utilization information of the information equipment is obtained by reading utilization information that should be obtained next time and is written in the storage means, or by reading information necessary for obtaining the utilization information written in the storage means and performing predetermined calculation with using the information that is read.

- 4 A method for preventing an unauthorized access to a computer including the steps of:

obtaining current utilization information of the computer;

writing utilization information to be obtained next time or information necessary for obtaining utilization information next time into a non-volatile storage means that can lock storage contents, and locking the storage contents of the storage means; and

informing a user of the current utilization information,

in at least any one of timing just after the computer is powered on, and just after the computer resumes from a power saving mode.

- 5 The method for preventing an unauthorized access to a computer according to Claim 4, wherein the current utilization information includes at least one of the number of power-on times of the computer, the number of resumes of

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the computer from a power saving mode, the number of activation times of the computer including the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode, the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the computer, the last date and time of shifting the computer to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the computer from the power saving mode, and the total use time of the computer.

6 The method for preventing an unauthorized access to a computer according to Claim 4, wherein the storage means comprises an EEPROM that can lock storage contents and release the lock of the storage contents when power supply is stopped.

7 The method for preventing an unauthorized access to a computer according to Claim 4, wherein the current utilization information of the computer is obtained by reading utilization information that should be obtained next time and is written in the storage means, or by reading information necessary for obtaining the utilization information written in the storage means and performing predetermined calculation with using the information that is read.

8 Information equipment comprising:

storage means;

a utilization information management unit for obtaining current utilization information about information equipment in at least any one timing of when the information equipment is powered on, when the information equipment resumes from a power saving mode, and when a specific function of the information equipment is selected, and writing utilization

information to be obtained next time or information necessary for obtaining utilization information next time into the storage means; and

a teaching unit for informing a user of the current utilization information obtained by the utilization information management unit.

9

The information equipment according to Claim 8, wherein the current utilization information includes at least one of the number of power-on times of the information equipment, the number of resumes of the information equipment from a power saving mode, the number of selections of a specific function of the information equipment, the number of activation times of the information equipment including the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode, the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the information equipment, the last date and time of shifting the information equipment to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the information equipment from the power saving mode, the last date and time when a specific function of the information equipment was selected or the last date and time when use of the specific function of the information equipment was completed, and the total use time of the information equipment.

10

The information equipment according to Claim 8, wherein the current utilization information of the information equipment is obtained by reading utilization information that should be obtained next time and is written in the storage means, or by reading information necessary for obtaining the utilization information written in the storage means and performing predetermined calculation with using the information that is read.

11 A computer comprising:

a non-volatile storage means that can lock storage contents;

a utilization information management unit for obtaining current utilization information about the computer in at least any one of timing just after the computer is powered on, and timing just after the computer resumes from a power saving mode, and writing utilization information to be obtained next time or information necessary for obtaining utilization information next time into the storage means, and locking storage contents; and

a teaching unit for informing a user of the current utilization information obtained by the utilization information management unit.

12 The computer according to Claim 11, wherein the current utilization information includes at least one of the number of power-on times of the computer, the number of resumes of the computer from a power saving mode, the number of activation times of the computer including the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode, the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the computer, the last date and time of shifting the computer to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the computer from the power saving mode, and the total use time of the computer.

13 The computer according to Claim 11, wherein the storage means comprises an EEPROM that can lock storage contents and release the lock of the storage contents when power supply is stopped.

14 The computer according to Claim 11, wherein the current utilization information of the computer is obtained by reading the utilization information that should be obtained next time and is written in the storage means, or by reading information necessary for obtaining the utilization information written in the storage means and performing predetermined calculation with using the information that is read.

15 A recording medium recording a program for making a computer execute processing including:

a first step of obtaining current utilization information about the computer in at least any one of timing just after the computer is powered on, and timing just after the computer resumes from a power saving mode, writing utilization information to be obtained next time or information necessary for obtaining utilization information next time into a non-volatile storage means that can lock storage contents, and locking the storage contents of the storage means; and

a second step of informing a user of the current utilization information obtained.

16 An information equipment program product on an information equipment usable medium method for preventing an unauthorized access to the information equipment the program product comprising the steps of:

software for obtaining current utilization information of the information equipment;

software for informing a user of the current utilization information; and

software for writing utilization information into storage means to be obtained next time the equipment is used by an authorized user, or said utilized information including at least one of when the information equipment is powered on, when the information equipment resumes from a power saving mode, and when a specific function of the information equipment is selected.

- 17 The program product according to Claim 1, wherein the current utilization information includes at least one of the number of power-on times of the information equipment, the number of resumes of the information equipment from a power saving mode, the number of selections of a specific function of the information equipment, the number of activation times of the information equipment comprising including the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode, the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the information equipment, the last date and time of shifting the information equipment to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the information equipment from the power saving mode, the last date and time when a specific function of the information equipment was selected or the last date and time when use of the specific function of the information equipment was completed, and a total use time of the information equipment.

- 18 The program product according to Claim 17 including:

software for writing utilization information to be obtained or information necessary for obtaining utilization information into a non-volatile storage means that can lock storage contents, and locking the storage contents of the storage means.